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503.30414V18

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.
Serial No.: 09/614,764
Filed: July 12, 2000
For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING METHOD THEREFOR
Group: 3749
Examiner: S. Gravini
Allowed: May 11, 2001
Batch No.: G21

REQUEST TO APPLY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Box Issue Fee

Washington, D.C. 20231

July 6, 2001

Sir:

The Issue Fee Transmittal in connection with the Notice of Allowance mailed May 11, 2001, in the above-identified application, is being submitted concurrently herewith.

The undersigned notes that an Issue Fee has previously been paid in connection with the above-identified application, on January 16, 2001. Enclosed please find a postcard receipt from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, acknowledging receipt of the Issue Fee. Note that the above-identified application was withdrawn from issue for consideration of a Submission under 37 CFR 1.114 (Request for Continued Examination). See the Decision mailed March 12, 2001, in the present application.

Since the above-identified application has again been allowed, Applicants respectfully request that the previously

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paid Issue Fee be applied towards the Issue Fee required by the Notice of Allowance mailed May 11, 2001. Moreover, since the Issue Fee previously paid and the Issue Fee required by this new Notice of Allowance mailed May 11, 2001 are the same, it is respectfully submitted that no additional fees are necessary with the enclosed Issue Fee Transmittal.

Acceptance of the enclosed Issue Fee Transmittal and acceptance of prior payment of the Issue Fee, and issuance of a U.S. patent based upon the above-identified application in due course, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414V18) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WIS/slk
Enclosures